

Greetings from Ontario, Canada!

As I write this article in late December, the EC has just concluded its Winter Meeting in Sparta (December 15-18, 2019). Seems like southern Illinois has extremes of heat in summer months and is freezing, snowy and icy in December (a lot like Ontario).

Your EC covered a lot of matters in 4 days. I invite you to read the Minutes when they are released.

When you read this article (scheduled for February 2020 edition) if you are in Ontario and shooting, you will typically be bundled up to the point your gun mount may be out of sync and one must be careful not to develop bad habits that may haunt you during warmer weather. By and large, however, winter shooting toughens a shooter and is good preparation for the start of the spring shooting season.

I was recently vetting some old files and came across an email sent to me by former ATA president Jim Jones, where he tasked me with developing the criteria for our ATA Gunsmithing scholarship. He often chides me about my profession (a lawyer). Jim observed, "The following story may help to give your profession a little positive publicity."

Here is the story.

"LAWYERS NEVER LIE ... ??

A lawyer with a wife and 12 children needed to move because his rental agreement was terminated by the owner, who wanted to reoccupy the home. He was having a lot of difficulty finding a new house. When he said that he had 12 children no one would rent a home to him, because they felt that the children would destroy the place. He couldn't say that he had no children, because he couldn't lie; we all know lawyers cannot and do not lie. (?)

So he sent his wife for a walk to the cemetery with 11 of their kids. He took the remaining one with him to see rental homes with the real estate agent. He loved one of the homes and the price was right ... the agent asked, "How many children do you have?"

He answered, "Twelve."

The agent asked, "Where are the others?"

The lawyer, with his best courtroom sad look answered, "They're in the cemetery with their mother."

MORAL: It's not necessary to lie, one only has to choose the right words ... "

Frankly, I think Jim was referring more to trapshooters than lawyers. For instance:

Factually Accurate Statement: "I was high on my squad."

What was not said, "he shot alone".

Factually Accurate Statement: "I led the Category All American Team this year."

What was not said, "he escorted them to the awards area"

Factually Accurate Statement: "When I play my money options I always clean up."

What was not said, "he is the janitor."

Factually Accurate Statement: "I haven't missed a 16 yard target in 5 months"

What was not said, "she hasn't been shooting for 5 months."

Have a great winter. Speak the truth and be sure to choose the right words.

Paul Shaw,  
Ontario Delegate